



The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's **EXCITER**

GET INVOLVED

- RARS General Membership meeting: **Second Tuesday** of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night except Saturday @ 8 p.m. on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net: Saturdays @ 8:00 PM on 146.64.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the **First Tuesday** of each month.
- On the **fourth Tuesday** of every month, in-person meeting at Ridge Road Baptist Church where there will be project tables, demos, snacks, and socializing.



PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Interested in helping? Visit
<https://www.rars.org/public-service.php>

frequently for our ham public service schedule.

RARS General Meeting

Date: May 14, 2024

Main topic: NextGen TV, ATSC 3.0

By: Ryan Gladson, Chief Engineer, CBS 17 Raleigh (WNCN).

Time: Zoom Meeting at 7:30 PM,
informal gathering at 7PM

Next Month: RARS Field Day

By: Co-chairs.

RARS In Person Meeting

Date: May 28, 2024

Where: Ridge Road Baptist Church

Time: 7:00 PM

In-person meeting at Ridge Road Baptist Church where there will be project tables, demos, snacks, and socializing.

RARS Officers

PRESIDENT

Fin Gold
NC4FG
nc4fgfin@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Chuck Till
K4RGN
k4rgn@outlook.com

SECRETARY

Julie Royster
KT4JR
919-782-1624
KT4JR@arrl.net

TREASURER

Greg Seamster
KE4PAX
919.859.0029
KE4PAX@arrl.net



The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Regular dues for licensed amateurs are \$18 per year. (From July 1 through June 30.) Additional licensed immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed full-time students and licensed seniors 60 and over are \$12 per year. Unlicensed individuals may become associate members for \$9 per year. Applications for membership are available from the treasurer or on the RARS web site.

<https://www.rars.org>

Exciter

The Exciter is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The Exciter welcomes articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces. The submission deadline for each month's Exciter is the Saturday that is ten days before the general meeting. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

The views expressed in the Exciter are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

Tom Lewis, N4TL, editor (editor@rars.org)

President's Message

Happy May everyone! The RARS Exciter is a great place to let you know what we're excited about. As part of our Engagement initiative, we've opened up the **RARS Discord server**! Any time you want to ask a question, make a comment, or discuss your radio passion, go to our server rather than posting on an email list or Facebook.

Here is the link: [RARS Discord Server](#)

Once you get in, go to the #general channel and set your user name using /nick [FirstName] [Call sign].

We already have many members signed in and starting interesting discussions. Time to join in! Psst. Want sneak previews of our upcoming plans? Check out the #ideas channel.

In other news, as we bask in the great success of RARSfest, many are buzzing about the excitement of the upcoming

Field Day 2024!

Field Day is a great, low-stress introduction to contest-style operating and DXing. You do NOT have to be a member of RARS or any amateur radio club to participate in RARS Field Day operation! You do NOT even have to have a license. In fact, we will have a special "Get on the Air" GOTA station for newly licensed hams and even non-hams to, you guessed it, get on the air! I'll be hosting that, so you can come hang out with me and have fun on the air.

A little over a month away and the event is really taking shape! Our organizers Curt Phillips W4CP and David Burt W4OFO are doing a great job organizing this major activity.

The event occurs on June 22nd or 23rd, but setup starts June 21st. Come see how emergency field operations are supposed to work.

There is something for everyone here:

- Want to see how to put up antennas? Come out on Friday to help.
- Want to see how HF and contesting work? Come watch and even try it out.
- New ham at any level? Or thinking about a license? Come dip your toe in it with me at the GOTA station.
- Want to help but not talk on the air? Come help log the calls.
- Experienced with HF? Volunteer for a time slot.
- Experienced with Morse code? Come help with a CW station.

Look for the signup now (or soon) on the website!

More club updates to come, so stay "engaged".

73,
Fin Gold, NC4FG

RARSfest 2024 is in the Books!

RARSfest by the numbers:

1,619 Paid Attendees*

15 Commercial Dealers, including HRO, Chatt Radio, Tarheel Designs, The Ham Badgers, The Wireman, DSS Technical Services (Fluke Sales/Repair

11 Exhibitors

11 Amateur Radio Clubs

7 Maker Clubs

248 Flea Market Tables (Sold Out!) We had to add 24 Saturday morning!

8 Volunteer Examiners

Richard Hall K7RLH

Doug Wall N3LTV

Liz White KO4CK

Gregg Buonomo KE2SX

Richard Spargur K3UI

William Gwaltney, Jr. WA4GK

Julie Royster KT4JR

Stanley Disbrow W2CK

who administered 94 Examinations to 71 License Exam Candidates
resulting in:

40 New Technicians

2 New Generals

1 New Amateur Extra

10 Upgraded Generals

11 Upgraded Amateur Extras (including a 10-year old!!)

Out of the 71, 60 had preregistered on our website. The VE's did an AMAZING job!

All newly licensed Techs were given free membership to RARS, as well as complimentary admission to RARSfest.

3 Communications vehicles from JARS (JARSCOM), the IEEE "Move" Emergency Truck and a home-brew tilt-up extending antenna mast trailer brought by Adriano KV7D, who is a member of the Onslow Amateur Radio Club. Our own Jeremy K2HJX bought his "Helping Hams" trailer, which had a lot of interest.

April 6, RARSfest, continued

The weather was great! The Great Solar Eclipse might have kept a few folks away, but overall our Dealers and Attendees really appreciated the move off of Easter Weekend! Both Ticketing and Check-In ran incredibly smoothly.

President Fin Gold debuted our new marketing materials and had a steady stream of visitors. Moving the Club Booth front and center had its benefits. He had more visitors than he could handle at times! The RARS Club Booth was also the locations for the NCQSO Party Awards.

Our Forums were well-attended, and the family of Danny Hampton was appreciative of the session honoring him.

Our 15 Staff members

Billy Janke KE4VNC
Chuck Till K4RGN
Chuck Littlewood K4HF
Jeremy Lindsley K2HJX
Sam Harris KQ4AQJ
Tom Lewis N4TL
Robert Starkenburg W4TTX
Fin Gold NC4FG
Tony O'Connor K1OC
Tadd Torborg KA2DEW
Daniel de Court W3WDD
Dave Thomas K4SAN
Greg Seamster KE4PAX
Richard Hall K7RLH

certainly got their steps in! It was a great event, the culmination of almost a year of planning. I am personally indebted to them for their diligence and professionalism. Special thanks to Bob W4TTX for stepping up for Consignment at the last minute.

The biggest thanks has to go to our Volunteers, who were the “boots on the ground” everywhere Friday and Saturday.

Christopher Cancilla W4CEC
Jon Suen KG6K

April 6, RARSfest, continued

Michael Rowland N3YEP
James Marolda KE4DRN
Ronald Ford W4RJF
Gordon Fedoriw KM4GBF
Bobby Cook W4FK
Barry Kinney NC4AZ
Bill Weinel W4WHW
Kevin Schilf
Dennis Mason WZ0Q
Bethany S Hunt KI4NBV
Jenna Janke
Bernard Haggerty N4BJH
John Hollowell K4JAH
Stephen Haffly NY4NC
Ken Latchum AD4GX
Terry Hunt K4HNT
Jay Mulik WJ0J
Ken Castille KN4GUS
John Deacon KB4OI
JT Hicks KQ4GAM
Paul Smith WD4CMS
Matthew J Jones KN4VTT
Andrew Provost KM4NRY
Melanie Provost KQ4KND
Richard Kroeger N1FUA
Carolyn P. Mayfield KC4EYK
Brian Knox KK4BK
Phillip Warnick KQ4MSQ
Bob Conder K4RLC
Jim Welch W1XR
Julie Royster KT4JR
Robert Starkenburg W4TTX
Will Gwaltney WA4GK
Doug Wall N3LTV
Travis Russell KN4WJL
Anthony Troeger

Scott Morris KG4ZYA
Justin Pinnix AJ4MJ
Tim Rodgers KC1TWR
Robert Dugdell KQ4ERD
Jim Smith KV4WTF
James Smith
Carl Lindner KM4GBE
Bob Chapman NC1X
Curt Phillips W4CP
Crystal Martin
George G. McBride N2VEH
Mark Freeze WD4KSE
Denny Oestreich KO4IBL
Daniel Faulkner KM4NOW
Craig McCrary KY4WM
Scott Olson KJ4DAT
Larry Wiandt N4LEW
Brantley West K4CBW
Brian Hatcher KM4TZD
Charles McComas KY4HU
Joshua Alleman KO4AYN
Steve Jenkins W4MGT
Ryan Reed N7RYN
Paul Dugdell KO4PZA
Dave Gourley KQ4MBK
Morgan Kuback

These folks received Complimentary Admission (not eligible for the Major Prizes), a commemorative tee shirts and a chance to win a "Volunteer Only" prize of a Yeasu FT-70DR/DE HT. The drawing for this prize will be at the next "Gathering", May 28th at the Ridge Road Baptist Church. They will receive an email this week with the details for that event.

April 6, RARSfest, continued

Save the Date! RARSfest 2025 will be held on Saturday April 5th. The Staff have already met to debrief on 2024, and have some ideas to make 2025 even better!

* Volunteers and first-time licensees who received complimentary admission are not included in this figure.



Admissions



RARS Welcome table

April 6, RARSfest, continued



Largest indoor hamfest



Kids soldering at splash space

April 6, RARSfest, continued



Many Tables



License Exams



Volunteer Central

April 6, RARSfest, continued



Grand Prize Winner

Chuck Till, K4RGN, RARS VP Awarding the
Grand Prize to Wendy Hussey, KQ4JVC
Yaesu FTdx10 transceiver

More pictures of the RARSfest courtesy of Nick England K4NYW:

[Click Here](#)

<https://www.rars.org>

April 9, 2024 RARS meeting

Fin Gold, NC4FG, RARS President, started the meeting at 7:30. The pledge of allegiance was recited. Various reports were given. See the [minutes](#) for more information about the meeting. Chuck Till, K4RGN introduced the presentation, "Radios on the Battleship North Carolina", presented by Alex Dydula AG1Q,

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33PM.

BB-55 Radios and Communication

By Alexander S Dydula October 2023



One of the slide used in the presentation.

Introduction

- Navy Communication – WW2
- Radio Locations – BB55
- TBS – Talk Between Ships
- Receivers, Transmitters, Antennas
- Battle Bills
- Radioman Positions
- CR and I Divisions

Father of Naval Communications

Commodore Thomas Truxton

Truxton Signal Book - 1797

One of the first six Captains in the US Navy

Commanded a fighting ship in the Revolutionary War

USS Constitution Against France.

"Fleet Fights Best that Can Communicate"

Signals – "The Very Sinews of Marine Duty"

300 basic signals

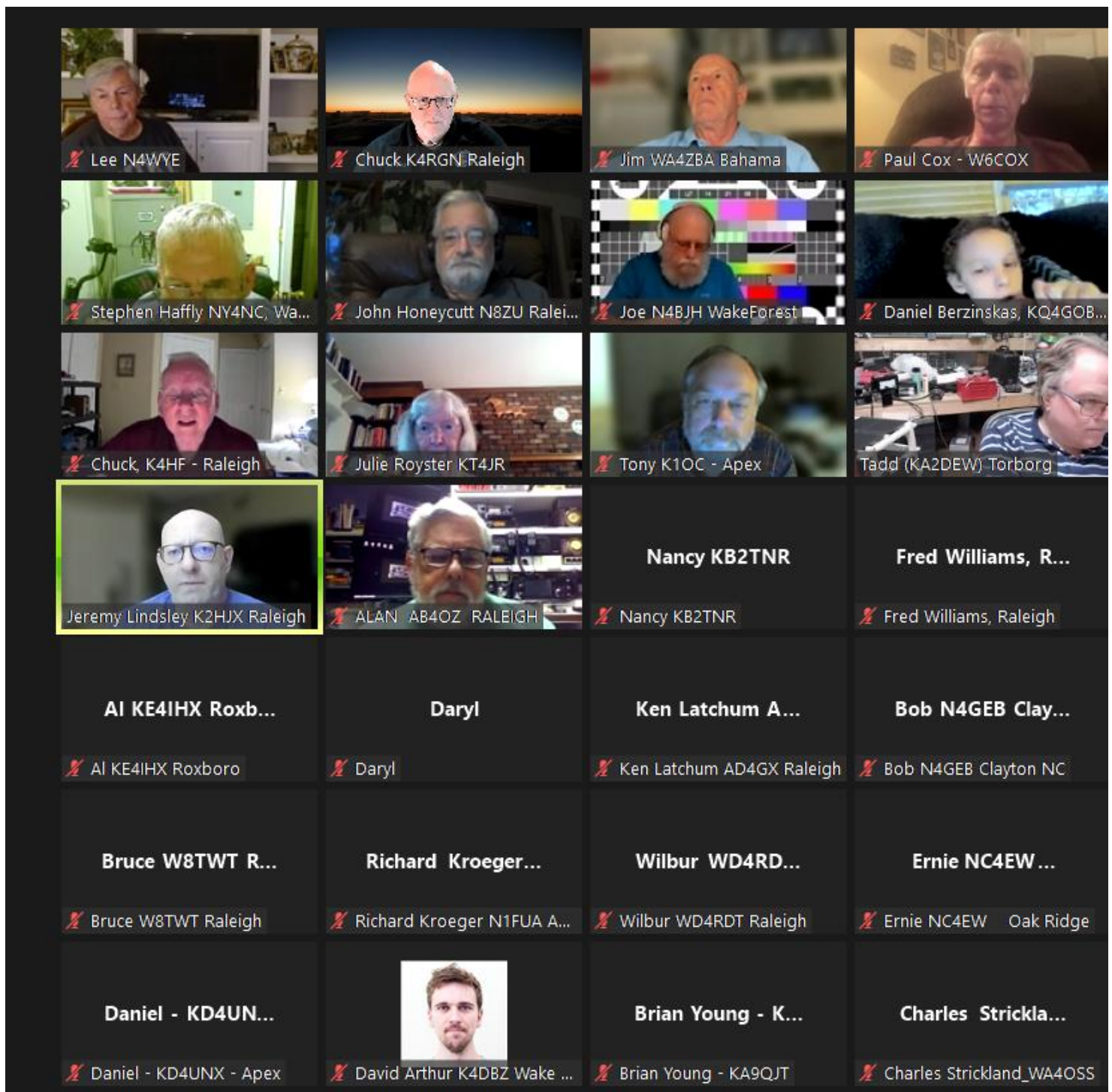
Pennant Displays at Daylight

Lights, Flashes from Musket Pans and Fires at Night



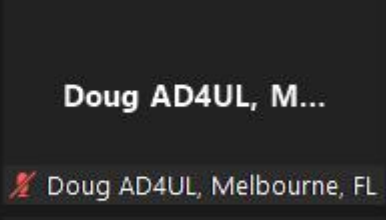
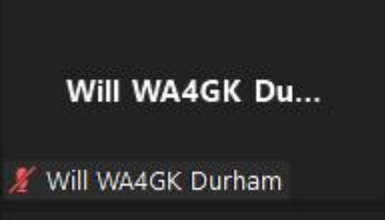
Some of the slides used in the presentation.

April 9, 2024 RARS meeting, continued



Screen capture during the meeting

April 9, 2024 RARS meeting, continued

 Cliff N3LEX Garner, NC	 dennis wz0q Raleigh	 Fin Gold NC4FG Raleigh
 Doug N3LTV Raleigh NC	 Alex - AG1Q/4	 K4YXM Robert
 Denny KO4IBL Raleigh	 Brantley West K4CBW	 Walter Chambers K4ZVK
 Tony (N4EWE) Wake Forest...	 Jim KM4WRK, Raleigh	 N4MQU-1
 Mike KN4DRN	 Jerry KE4TTS Cary, NC	 Doug AD4UL, Melbourne, FL
 Will WA4GK Durham	 Greg KE4PAX Hanover, MD	 Carl - KM4GBE - Cary
 Steve W4MGT	 Ben Davis KN4RFT	 David Burt, W4OFO

49 people attended

Monthly In-Person RARS Gathering, April 23

Ridge Road Baptist Church, at [2011 Ridge Road, Raleigh](#)

The meeting starts at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall, but we start setting up at 6:00 pm, and you are welcome to bring your own ham radio equipment and projects to demonstrate, show off, or just work on with other like-minded hams -- we have plenty of tables. You might also find sources of coax, connectors, zip cord, Powerpoles®, and whatnot.



RARS Gathering, pictures

Morse Code & CW

What is it ? What is it used for ? How to learn it ?

By Dr. Bob Conder K4RLC – Raleigh Amateur Radio Society CW Pathfinder

History of Morse Code and CW: Of all the emission modes available to today's licensed amateur radio operators - SSB, AM, FM, FT8 - Morse Code is the *original digital* and has stood the test of time for almost 200 years. Ironically, after the Federal Communications Commission dropped the requirement for Morse Code for licensure, its popularity has blossomed. This is shown by the thousands of members of Morse Code clubs like the Straight Key Century Club (SKCC) and the Long Island CW Club (LICW).

The terms “Morse Code” and CW are used interchangeably, although there are differences. The original Morse Code was developed by Samuel Morse and William Vale in 1838 as a means of communicating over long distances when no other long-distance communications were available. Historically the most technologically advanced form of communications in Europe in the 1800s was the *optical telegraph*, a way of communicating by displaying visual symbols from windmill type structures overland, but limited in that had to be line of sight. While the understanding of the physics of electricity was still in its infancy, Morse, while sailing back from studying art in Europe, improved on the idea of using a separate electrical circuit for each letter of the alphabet by using an electromagnet to sound short and long bursts of energy over a single electrical wire. In America, telegraph wires were soon strung up between the major cities and across the country, leading to the demise of the Pony Express. Originally designed to send critical information about government, politics, railroads and war, the content sent by Morse morphed into sending business and stock market information as well as betting on horse races and greetings among friends and family. In 1896 when Marconi arrived in England, the British Post Office employed 500 telegraph operators at its office in central London.

Wired to Wireless: Marconi, in fact, can be credited with the shift from wired to wireless communication, for both transcontinental contacts and communicating with ships at sea. Marconi, a shrewd entrepreneur, originally used a spark gap transmitter but was able through hundreds of experiments to develop a transmitter which focused power on a specific frequency, helped with his experimentation into antenna design. As an emission type, Morse Code (A1A) is also known as CW Continuous Wave, as one continuous sound is produced when the key is pressed down, usually a pleasant auditory tone at 600 Hz. The keypresses are really the original digital, with ones and zeros. Each letter is produced by a keypress: the “Dit” is a very short keypress, and the “Dah” is a keypress three times longer. Morse designed his Code such that the most often used letters of the alphabet have the fewest characters. That is, the letter “E” is simply one dit, while the letter “T” is just one dah. These are the building blocks of the Morse Code language. Letters make words, words make sentences, sentences tell stories. The optimal goal for radio amateurs is to use Morse Code for communication, just as two friends having a face-to-face conversation.

CW-How to learn: Since the original telegraphic Code using an electromagnet sounder (known as Amer-

Morse Code & CW, continued

ican Morse) changed into a modulated auditory tone, the question has always been how best to teach and learn CW? Initially, it was the business and communications focus of CW that drove research into learning and teaching. War provided both a huge need for Morse Code operators, and research into the most effective and efficient teaching methods. In America, Harter and colleagues conducted research into learning CW for commercial operators at Indiana University in the 1890s. In Germany, Lipmann and Koch were more interested in producing military operators for the World Wars. Similarly, World War II provided another impetus for research into learning CW conducted at some of the best American universities, such as NYU and Harvard. The US Military realized the value of Morse such that the US Navy re-established its Morse school at Pensacola (FL) Naval Air Station a few years ago.

Today there are as many ideas about learning CW as there are stars in the sky. However, there are some methods which stood the test of time and some which have been studied scientifically. The most classic method is called the **Koch** method, based on the original research of Professor Sigmund Koch. This involves learning the letters and numbers in the sequence in which the initial early learning of easy characters builds a foundation for the later more difficult characters. Second to this, when one begins learning words instead of letters, the use of the Farnsworth technique is very helpful. "**Farnsworth**" allows greater time periods between individual characters and words, allowing for the brain to play "catch up." As the CW student improves, the intra-word spacing is reduced. A principal core to all CW learning is that of **ICR - Instant Character Recognition**. ICR means that your brain processes characters and words immediately and as effortlessly as you process spoken language. In fact, modern neuroscience studies using real-time functional MRIs of the brain have shown that processing Morse Code follows the same brain pathways as understanding spoken language. This should not be surprising, as this is how children, who have not mastered written language, learn to speak. Also, one should learn at a fast character speed, so that you don't count dits and dahs: a character speed of 25 to 30 Words Per Minute is recommended for ICR and to help you progress. Finally, avoid referencing any visual charts and avoid "Sound alike" as they interfere with progress.

One can visualize the process of learning CW as an inverse pyramid. At the very bottom point are individual letters and characters, which then become words, which become sentences, which become paragraphs and stories. That is, one builds proficiency from the bottom up.

Learning CW – Classes, Computers and Self-Study: Most believe that the initial learning of CW is best performed in a class type setting, either with your local radio club, or online clubs such as the Long Island CW Club or CW Academy. Both teach CW classes over the Internet using Zoom. This is an opportunity for someone to learn in the comfort of their home from experienced instructors and with supportive classmates. Three times a year, CW Academy offers eight weeklong classes, meeting two nights a week, in a small group format of 5 to 8 students. However, it is really the out of class practice that leads to proficiency with the classes serving as a guide. LICW offers classes seven days a week at times accommodating

Morse Code & CW, continued

to anyone's schedule, as the membership is worldwide. This is the most flexible format in that you can drop in any time and to multiple classes on the same level. Again, it is the out of class practice that leads to proficiency.

Self-study is another option, although it may not be as effective as a structured class. There are free computer programs that have been traditionally used. One of the best is the G4FON program from Ray G4FON (SK) which combines both Koch and Farnsworth. Over 10,000 hams worldwide have learned CW with the **G4FON.Net** program. Web-based programs that are helpful include **MorseCode.World**, which provides computer resources to support many methods of teaching CW, and LCWO, which stands for **Learn CW On Line**. While not a computer program, **Morse Ninja** from Kurt AD0WE provides hundreds of hours of practice, either through YouTube or downloads of MP4 files from his website. Kurt also provides a learning system, in addition to his audio files at **Morsecode.ninja**.

Basic equipment for CW: Many wonder how to operate CW? First, most modern high-frequency transceivers have CW capabilities. Even entry-level transceivers such as the ICOM IC-7300 have very sophisticated CW capabilities. One also needs a "key" to send the dots and dashes. Many start with a "straight key" which is really just a mechanical switch in which the ham presses the key for long or short amounts of time. This is the way most of us old-timers learned to send CW. Hams used to be recognized by the unique sound of their "fist." CW Academy recommends bypassing the straight key and starting with what is called a "paddle." With this, there are two plastic or metal paddles one presses and lets the keyer or radio send perfect dits and dahs. As a CW signal has extremely narrow bandwidth compared to SSB and all the power is concentrated into that narrow signal, Morse Code has more "punch" and can be heard worldwide with relatively low power and a simple wire antenna, such as a dipole or End Fed Half Wave. Given its efficiency, many of us like to operate QRP CW, meaning using power of 5 Watts or less and a whip antenna about 4 feet long. This set-up can transverse continents and oceans.

How to operate CW: Making the first CW contact can be one of the most stressful events for a new ham. There are ways that help. CW contacts, known as "QSOs", can be practiced in the online classes of LICW or CWA. The same classes can assist new hams in making over the air contacts while guided in class by the instructor. Additionally, having a "Code Buddy" is incredibly helpful to beginning CW operators. The Code Buddy can be someone at the same level, or an Elmer helping inexperienced students by being positive, encouraging, and forgiving in real time over the air. The Code Buddy system is probably one of the most helpful ways to increase confidence and proficiency for CW, and getting on the air.

Almost every weekend there is some type of CW contest on the air. Some of these are very high-speed and competitive while others are more at a decent speed and friendly, such as the **Slow Speed Test**, sponsored by the K1USN Radio Club. One of the most popular, fun, and friendly operating events is **Parks On The Air – POTA** (parksontheair.com). POTA began with the 100th anniversary celebration of the Nation-

Morse Code & CW, continued

al Park system in 2016. POTA has blossomed into one of the most popular on-the-air events in which there are “Activators - hams who go to a park and set up a portable radio station - and “Hunters” who try to contact them. Many of us share a love of the outdoors with ham radio and this is a great way to combine these passions. In North Carolina alone, there are over 250 POTA sites, including the 43 State Parks, state forests and wildlife areas, state historic sites such as the old Capitol building in Raleigh, and national historic sites such as the Wright Brothers Memorial on the Outer Banks. There is also the “**Summits On The Air**”- SOTA (sota.org.uk) program which involves hiking up to mountain tops with portable radio equipment and activating. We are fortunate in North Carolina to have many beautiful mountains in the western part of the state which qualify as SOTA peaks – most involving a good hike while some are drive up.

Summary: Hopefully this has been a brief useful introduction for those wanting to learn and operate CW, as well as those who know CW but want to increase their proficiency. Once you know the basics, experienced operators such as Dale W4AUV and Dan KB6NU will tell you to just **Get On The Air !** And have fun. Hope to C U on the air real soon. 73 de K4RLC Bob.

On-Line Resources for Morse Code:

CW Academy: <https://cwops.org/cw-academy/cw-academy-options/>

G4FON Morse Trainer: G4FON.Net

Learn CW Online: LCWO.Net

Long Island CW Club: LongislandCWClub.Org

K1USN Radio Club SST (Slow Speed Test): <http://www.k1usn.com/sst>

Morse Code Ninja Practice Page: <https://morsecode.ninja/practice/>

Morse Code World Training Page: <https://morsecode.world/international/trainer/trainer.html>

Straight Key Century Club – SKCC: www.skccgroup.com

References:

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Larson, E. (2006). *Thunderstruck*. New York: Random House (History of Marconi’s time in England)

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Meyer, F. L. (1902). *Twentieth century manual of railroad and commercial telegraphy*. New York: Rand McNally.

Pierpont, W. (1997). *The Art and Skill of Radio-Telegraphy*. Free download of classic text: tasrt.ca/TASRT

Ritter, J. (2015). *Learning Morse Code as a Language*. Former RARS President & US Navy CW instructor. (Google title).

Romanchik, D. (2015). *The CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code*. Great intro primer. Amazon/Kindle

Standage, T. (1998). *The Victorian Internet*. NY: Walker. (History of development of telegraphy)

Taylor, D. W. (1943). Learning the telegraphic code. *Psychological Bulletin*, 40(7), 461-486. (Morse training for WW2).

RARS Member Birthdays

Angus	KO4LZU	05/01
George	N2GXC	05/01
Richard	K7RLH	05/01
Matt	NC4SU	05/03
John	KJ4JAS	05/04
Ron	KJ4DNS	05/04
Julie	KM4JEN	05/04
Larry	KG4FIQ	05/05
Liz	KO4CK	05/05
Michael	KG5AWR	05/06
Renard	KC4AQC	05/07
John	N4JMB	05/08
Wayne	K6TWX	05/08
Alanna	K4AAC	05/08
Hank	K4HM	05/08
Carla	KB4MDY	05/09
Brian	KA9QJT	05/10
Bob	NC1X	05/11
Jason	KX4HV	05/13
Bill	KQ4ICL	05/15
Joe	AF1E	05/16
Frank	W4NPN	05/17
Mark	KQ4OKC	05/18
Glenn	WA4VSL	05/19
Steve	N9SZ	05/20
Douglas	KN4DSZ	05/20
Bill	AK4BL	05/20
Phillip	N4HF	05/23
Joe	K4UOO	05/24
Hugh	KD4WJD	05/30
Neil	KM4JEL	05/31
Ken	AD4GX	05/31

RARS New Members

Dario Burrage	KF5CYN
Nathan Best	KO4W
Jim Lewis	W8MGZ
Bill Harrison	Not Licensed
Paul Cox	W6COX
Chris Keelor	KB8RUA
Pat Turner, Jr	KQ4QWK
Charles Hildreth	KQ4QXE
Brandon Clark	KQ4QZB
Bob Johnson	KQ4QXD
Jeremy DeWitt	KQ4RBH
Roger Freeman	W9ELE
Austin Hyder	K4HYD
Amanda Hyder	KQ4RGV
Steve Zabarnick	N9SZ

April 2024 RARS Net Report

30 2m nets: 370 checkins,
668 minutes

5 6m nets: 63 checkins,
98 minutes

1 HPNSC net: 9 checkins,
30 minutes

Julie KT4JR

HAM RADIO LUNCHEON

Everyone is welcome!

Every Thursday at 11:15 AM, New York Diner,
909 McKnight Drive Knightdale.

<https://www.facebook.com/NewYorkDinerNC>

Check the latest information on the AB4OZ QRZ entry. QRZ.COM.

April 18th 2024



Clockwise around the table, Ken Latchum, AD4GX; Dennis Mason, WZ0Q;
Alan Pitegoff, AB4OZ; Chuck Littlewood, K4HF; Charles Strickland, WA4OSS;
Jerry Davis, KE4TTS; David Guthrie, WA4DAG; Howard Goodman, N4KYW;
Dave Wood, W4EJ; Tom Lewis, N4TL

RARS MONTHLY SUPPER, IHOP RESTAURANT MAY 7, 2024



Photo by Bob Starkenburg W4TTX

Names clockwise around the table

Dennis Mason, WZ0Q; Fin Gold, NC4FG; Chuck Till, K4RGN; Tom Lewis, N4TL;
Mary Jo Littlewood, K4MJL; Chuck Littlewood, K4HF; Waleed Jaber, KQ4KRD;
Katie Jaber; Waiyi Choi; Jonathan Osbrink, KB8QNE; Lien Cox; Paul Cox, W6COX.

April 17, 2024 Swan Island DX Association dinner

<https://www.qsl.net/sidxa/>



Tom N4TL taking the picture.

Names going around the table clockwise.

Dan, N3ND; Bill, K4CIA; Ron, AA4VK; Gale, K4GGB;
Karl, W4CHX; Steve, K4QL; Bill, K4MWB; Jeff, NX9T;
Nate, N4YDU; Rich, N4EX; Bert, N4CW.

RARS Classifieds

Copied from <https://www.rars.org/classifieds.php>

The items below were listed within the last 30 days on the RARS website.
Check the RARS Classified List on the RARS website regularly for new items.

M2 6 meter M2 HO Loop

Posted April 28th, 2024 by: N4IZE

Contact: thoswan@att.net

6 Meter M2 HO Loop in used condition. Have manual.

Manufactured by M2 Antenna Systems, Inc.

This is a square antenna that is omni-directional with horizontal polarized loop-style antenna.

50 to 50.3 Mhz., Gain 6.3 dBi @ 25 deg., Impedance 50 Ohms, feed connector SO-239

Weight 2 lbs.

\$ 80.00

Clegg 99'er Six Meter AM Transceiver

Posted April 26th, 2024 by: K4HF

Contact: k4hf953@yahoo.com

The Clegg 99'er runs 8 Watts input and the frequency is crystal controlled. Three crystals are included. The power supply is built in and the mike and manual are included. Tested and working, very good condition. \$55.

Contact me by e mail, preferred, or (919) 630-9358. Thanks, Chuck

Radio shack/Realistic HTX 202

Posted April 24th, 2024 by: WZ0Q

Contact: wz0q@outlook.com

Forsale htx202 2 meter HT. Comes with copy of manual, 6aa battery case , antenna

Asking \$30.00 obo.

Dennis, Wz0q 919 413 5998

Wanted - HF Amp

Posted April 22nd, 2024 by: K9RI

Contact: k9ri@pobox.com

Wanted - reasonably priced 1kw+ HF amp. I'd prefer something without 811 tubes if possible. Please message me if you know of one. Thanks!

RARS Classifieds continued

Hotspot with Radxa board

Posted April 20th, 2024 by: W4BMX

Contact: tonylaszlo@hotmail.com

\$50 or best reasonable offer, comes with Hat and antenna all in a nice case. text me for a picture.

Regards, Tony, 919 961-1813

KB9JBR 2m j-pole

Posted April 13th, 2024 by: KT4EM

Contact: rwphile@gmail.com

KB9JBR 2m dipole. Like new condition. PVC "stand" available. 20.00

Three EICO 753 transceivers

Posted May 7th, 2024 by: N4TL

Contact: n4tl2@yahoo.com

Three EICO 753 transceivers with one matching EICO 751 power supply. The PS has new capacitors. Number one puts out 100 watts. Number 2 transmits but the power out is low. Number 3 receives but no power out. Clean, no rust. Includes manual. \$125 for all of them. I prefer not to ship, pickup in Raleigh NC.

73 Tom N4TL

Begali Simplex Iambic Key with gold plate base and blue aluminum finger pieces

Posted May 7th, 2024 by: N4TL

Contact: n4tl2@yahoo.com

Begali Simplex Iambic Key with gold plate base and blue aluminum finger pieces.

No call is engraved on the key. With plastic dust cover.

\$175.

The current cost of the key, plus the special finger pieces and shipping is \$239.

Key, gold + al finger pieces + shipping

159 + 30 + 33 = 222 euros = 239 dollars

Save \$64 on this one.

Contact me on email. N4TL

Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

March 19, 2024

7:00PM on Zoom

President Fin Gold called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. He asked if any visitors were present, but there were none. He requested Secretary Julie Royster to make a quorum call. There were 14 board members present at the time of the count, constituting a quorum. BOD members attending were: Fin Gold NC4FG, Chuck Till K4RGN, Julie Royster KT4JR, Alan Pitegoff AB4OZ, Greg Seamster KE4PAX, Ken Latchum AD4GX, Tony O'Connor K1OC, Curt Phillips W4CP, Jeremy Lindsley K2HJX, John Honeycutt N8ZU, Nancy Torborg KB2TNR, Tadd Torborg KA2DEW, Richard Kroeger N1FUA, Tom Lewis N4TL, and Chuck Littlewood K4HF.

President Gold asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 2024 Board Meeting. John Honeycutt so moved and the motion was seconded and passed unanimously. President Gold asked if there was any old business, but there was none.

Infrastructure & Engagement Committee Updates - Fin Gold, NC4FG

These 2 committees' areas overlap, as do their committee members, so they are being discussed together. Both committees have met several times. Survey responses showed no consensus yet on a new RARS logo, so a version of the old logo will be used for RARSfest. We may ask the membership for input on the logo. President Gold asked board members to stick around after tonight's meeting for demonstration of Google Drive and Discord, two platforms that can be used (instead of email) to streamline and document RARS board communication. John Honeycutt asked the purpose of the "rebranding" and Fin explained that it is a marketing refresh intended to convey to potential members that RARS has new initiatives and welcomes new members, and to use the same logo for RARS across all platforms. Tad Torborg stated that RARS could have presentations at VE sessions, club meetings, etc. and that we should have a logo that is attractive and also consistent from one platform to another. Nancy Torborg stated that most clubs have some indication of their physical location in their logos, which should be considered. Greg Seamster pointed out that in prior years signs at the fairgrounds stated simply "RARSfest" with no explanation of what RARS is.

RARS Board of Directors Meeting minutes continued

Officers' Reports

Vice-President's Report Chuck Till K4RGN

Chuck is now working on speakers for August and September meetings.

Treasurer's Report Greg Seamster KE4PAX

The number of members is now up to 465. Finances and recent expenditures were reported.

Secretary's Report Julie Royster KT4JR

Minutes are up to date.

Committee Reports:

Public Service Director Jeremy Lindsley, K2HJX

The season's first public service event is coming soon. The first occurrence of the new monthly public service net will be March 27 at 7:30 pm on the 146.64 repeater.

Education Director Denny Oestreich, KO4IBL

Denny was not present but President Gold briefly described the first of the three technician license classes being held this month.

Field Day Chairs Curt Phillips, W4CP & David Burt, W4OFO

RARS may add additional stations this year, possibly becoming a 9A site. Band captains are lined up and the cochairs have made a site visit to determine where stations will be located.

FM Repeater Chair Chuck DeCourt, W3WZN

Alan Pitegoff reported that Chuck picked up some equipment from Danny Hampton's location. He has gotten a better quote for the work that needs doing to put up the antenna and will report soon on the quotes he has collected. Chuck and Fin Gold and Chuck Till will visit the 64 repeater on 3/21/2024 to document the existing equipment.

RARS Board of Directors Meeting minutes continued

Club License Trustees Tom Lewis, N4TL

Information has been submitted to ARRL regarding Chuck Till becoming the new trustee for the W4RNC repeater, but ARRL has not responded yet.

RARSfest Chair Nancy Torborg, KB2TNR

Expenses are coming up but we are ahead of prior years in terms of sales. We must pay for rentals of tables and chairs. Jeremy Lindsley says that tables are about 80% sold out. WA4TCJ had trouble reserving a table through the online form but several members have tried to help him.

Exciter Editor Tom Lewis, N4TL

Exciter submissions are due by March 30.

Food Service Chair Richard Kroeger, N1FUA

There will be snacks at the gathering.

Net Manager Julie Royster, KT4JR

Nets are continuing. Fin has suggested a youth net and a new ham net, which are good ideas, but these would need to be scheduled at different times, not on the 8 pm nightly net. Fin asked that his suggestions for net content be added to the Discord page so that people can take a look.

ARRL Liaison Chuck Littlewood, K4HF

Marv Hoffman has continued to promote RARSfest in his newsletter.

RARS Webmaster Tony O'Connor, K1OC

Tony signed RARS up to Logbook of the World and uploaded the NC QSO party logs as well as the last 3 years of Field Day logs. RARS has now earned a mixed Worked All States award from ARRL.

At Large Director Alan Pitegoff, AB4OZ

Nothing to report

RARS Board of Directors Meeting minutes continued

At Large Director

Tadd Torborg, KA2DEW

Tadd shared photos of the latest RARS gathering, which had over 40 people there and is so successful and so fun!

At Large Director

Ken Latchum, AD4GX

No report

Other reports, questions, or comments:

Fin Gold described that it is necessary to sign in to Discord and to Google Drive

Tadd Torburg stated that it would be desirable to develop documentation of all the equipment at the 64 repeater.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by John Honeycutt, and the motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm. Following the meeting Fin Gold gave an online tour of the RARS board Google Drive contents and the RARS board Discord contents. Google Drive has a folder for each director or committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Royster, KT4JR, RARS Secretary

RARS Club Meeting Minutes

7:30 PM on Zoom

April 9, 2024

President Fin Gold, NC4FG, called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm on Zoom. He welcomed participants and reminded them of several tips about using Zoom. He led participants in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the USA. President Gold asked whether there were new members, visitors, or newly upgraded members present. New members attending were James M. Rogers, WA4ZBA, and Paul Cox, W6COX.

President Gold acknowledged the sudden passing of Jan Lewis, wife of Tom Lewis, N4TL, and asked that the family be kept in members' thoughts and prayers.

President Gold praised RARSfest chair Nancy Torborg, KB2TNR, and all the RARSfest volunteers for a very successful hamfest this year.

President Gold asked Secretary Julie Royster, KT4JR, for a quorum call. She replied that there was not a quorum yet, so a recount would be needed later in the meeting.

Vice President's Report or announcements – Chuck Till, K4RGN

The May program will be given by Ryan Gladson, Chief Engineer at CBS 17 (WNCN) in Raleigh, about ATSC 3.0, also known as NextGen TV.

Secretary's Report or announcements – Julie Royster, KT4JR

The minutes were up to date.

Treasurer's Report or announcements – Greg Seamster, KE4PAX

There are currently 474 members, and a few new member applications have just been received. The YTD net income is positive. There are additional expenses to be received for RARSfest with a net positive income forecast. Please contact Greg KE4PAX with questions/comments about the budget.

Report on RARSfest by Nancy Torborg KB2TNR

The 2024 RARSfest was an outstanding meeting! We had great attendance, almost \$18,000 in ticket sales, and sold out the flea market tables. In license testing 71 applicants took 94 tests in the VE session. Nancy Torburg acknowledged many volunteers by name and thanked them all.

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RARS General Membership Meeting minutes continued

Announcement from Alan Pitegoff, AB4OZ

The quarterly 10 m net will be held April 13 at about 8:45 or 9 pm after tech and traders' net on 28.364 MHz. Upcoming hamfests are in Winston-Salem on April 13, Goldsboro on May 4, and the free AB4OZ fest in Raleigh on May 18.

Announcement from Jeremy Lindsley, K2HJX

The next month will be very busy in public service events, including events on May 5 and May 18 in Asheboro. Hams are encouraged to get involved with public service.

Announcement from Brantley West, K4CBW

A portable operating event in late April will be announced soon. Last month's event at Clemmons Forest included 4 stations in operation. If anyone wants to build a link dipole antenna, please contact Brantley.

VE Testing announcement from Fin Gold on behalf of Richard Hall, K7RLH

The next test session will be held prior to the Gathering on April 23 at Ridge Road Baptist Church.

President Gold announced that the next Board Meeting will be at 7PM on Tuesday, April 16th via Zoom. Treasurer Greg Seamster stated that the proposed budget for the upcoming year will be discussed. Any member wishing to attend the meeting can obtain the Zoom link from Fin Gold.

Secretary Julie Royster stated that a quorum had been achieved with 49 members present. President Gold then asked for a motion to approve the club meeting minutes from March 2024. Chuck Till K4RGN so moved, and the motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Vice President Chuck Till, K4RGN, introduced the program at 7:55 pm:

Radios on the Battleship North Carolina presented by Alex Dydula AG1Q

Following a very interesting program that concluded at 9:20 pm, President Gold asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was so moved by John Honeycutt, N8ZU, seconded, and the motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 pm. The Zoom session remained open for informal conversation.

May 2024 Exciter contents

1. Meeting information, General (Zoom) and RARS Gathering in person.
2. President's message
3. RARS*fest* wrap-up by Nancy KB2TNR, with pictures.
4. April 9, 2024 RARS Zoom meeting information and pictures.
5. Attendees list, 49 people attended.
6. Monthly In-Person RARS Gathering
7. Morse Code & CW by Bob Conder, K4RLC.
8. RARS Member Birthdays and new members
9. April 2024 RARS Nets Report
10. Ham Radio Luncheon. New York Diner, every Thursday & picture
11. RARS Monthly Supper, IHOP Restaurant, information & picture
12. April 17, 2024 Swan Island DX Association dinner picture.
13. RARS Classifieds, 2 pages.
14. RARS Board Meeting Minutes, March 2024.
15. RARS Membership Meeting minutes, April 2024
16. Exciter Contents, This list